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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS volume contains a selection from the proceedings of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, beginning with the monthly meeting in October, 1876, and ending with the monthly meeting in December, 1877. By a vote of the Society, the stated meetings for July, August, and September, 1877, were omitted.

Three portraits illustrate the volume: That of our late distinguished associate, the Rev. Charles Wentworth Upham, finely executed on steel, to accompany the Memoir of him by Dr. Ellis, is placed at the beginning of the volume. This was generously furnished by the family of the deceased. That of Colonel William Henshaw, a heliotype, copied from an oil painting, kindly placed at the disposal of the Society by his grand-daughter, Miss H. E. Henshaw, is given at page 65, to accompany the Memoir of him written by Professor Washburn as a preface to the Orderly Book of Colonel Henshaw, published in this volume. A portrait of the lamented Ex-Governor John H. Clifford, also a heliotype, presented by his family, is prefixed to the Memoir of him by the President of the Society, at page 368.

On page 364 will be found a blank certificate as "an Inlisted Montross," or under-gunner, "at his Majesty's North Battery, in Boston," struck from the plate in the possession of the Society. It was engraved by Paul Revere. It has a picture of the North Battery, Christ Church, and Bunker Hill. At the same page will be seen a certificate as "an Inlisted Montross, at his Majesty's South Battery, in Boston." This has a picture of the South Battery, Fort Hill, &c. This latter certificate is a heliotype, taken from an engraving kindly submitted for the Society's use by the Essex Institute of Salem. A *fac-simile* of a letter of Phillis Wheatley, the negro-slave poet of Boston, taken from the original letter in the Society's possession, is placed at page 386.

CHARLES DEANE,
For the Committee.

BOSTON, March 15, 1878.